

Please amend the application as follows:

IN THE TITLE

Please replace the current title, "ROUTING METHOD AND APPARATUS THAT UTILIZE DIAGONAL ROUTES," with "ROUTING METHOD AND APPARATUS."

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please delete the "Claim of Benefit to Prior Application" on page 1, lines 1-11, and insert therein a new Claim of Benefit to Prior Applications as follows:

--CLAIM OF BENEFIT TO PRIOR APPLICATIONS

This application is a continuation application of United States Patent Application entitled "Routing Method and Apparatus that Utilizes Diagonal Routes," filed on December 7, 2001, and having serial number 10/013,819. This patent application also claims the benefit of the earlier-filed U.S. Provisional Patent Application entitled "Routing Method and Apparatus", having serial number 60/314,580, and filed 8/23/2000; and U.S. Provisional Patent Application entitled "Routing Method and Apparatus", having serial number 60/337,504, and filed 12/6/2001--

Please delete the "Field of the Invention" on page 1, lines 10-12, and insert therein a new Field of the Invention as follows:

a2

--FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The invention is directed towards a routing method and apparatus.--

On page 5, lines 1-8, please delete the "Summary of the Invention", and insert therein a new Summary of the Invention as follows:

a3

--SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Some embodiments provide a method of routing a net within a region of an integrated-circuit ("IC") layout. For the net, the method initially identifies a route that uses a first path within the region. The first path shares a common region in the IC region with a set of adjacent paths. The set of adjacent paths includes at least one path and each path in the set is adjacent to the first path. After identifying the route, the method then determines whether embedding the route in the region will cause congestion about the first path and the set of paths to exceed a threshold value. If so, the method discards the route in some embodiments of the invention.--

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 1-26.

Please add the following claims 27-57.--